Hauteville in his later years and gratified that scientific interest which was undoubtedly his even if we discount much of the Arab's eulogies.

It would be to claim too much for Roger II, to say that he surrounded himself with an academy of the fame and number, for instance, of Charlemagne's. Vernacular Romance poetry had scarcely arisen; even the Latin historians of his reign are not of particular merit; nor did the King possess any of that wit, the turn for satirical verses, the literary bent which his famous grandson Frederick II, displayed a hundred years later, Roger's tastes were for the exact sciences, the pursuit of which was still mainly the monopoly of Greeks and Arabs, especially of the latter. If we add to the actual circle of the learned around the King, authors who resided in Palermo and produced their works in his reign, we may assume a little school of the wise drawing their inspiration from and enjoying the patronage of the Crown, Of the five prominent names, two, Abu-es-Salt Ommeia and Edrisi, were Moslems, the remaining three, Eugenius, Nilus Doxopatrius, Theophanes Cerameus, were Greeks, Of these, three were students of mechanics,

geography, astronomy, the last two were respectively ecclesiastical controversialist and preacher,

The homilies of the court preacher Theophanes Cerameus are not of great literary or theological value. They remain interesting as showing the favour which Roger showed towards those Greek